

ARKANSAS CO-TEACHING PROJECT ADVISORY REPORT AUGUST 2018

The Arkansas Co-Teaching Project continues to provide a tiered system of support to staff at schools interested in starting a co-teaching program or improving the fidelity of an existing program. **Tier 1** supports include telephone and email technical assistance and access to informational resources about the co-teaching model. Interested administrators, teachers, and co-teachers regularly contact the project team to obtain basic information about the co-teaching model, roles and responsibilities of co-teachers, best practices for implementation, scheduling, sources of co-teaching professional development, etc. The project team also works with the ADE Special Education and other units of Learning Services to respond to informational requests about co-teaching and the types of services provided by the project.

Tier 2 services include more extensive technical assistance that is provided by telephone, web-based conference calls, or in person school visits. These services also include onsite or regional overviews of the co-teaching model. During the summer, we provided full day co-teaching overview professional development sessions for Dawson Education Cooperative, Arch Ford Education Cooperative, Crowley's Ridge Education Cooperative, Wilbur Mills Education Cooperative, and Guy Fenter Education Cooperative, as well as the Concord School District. We were also part of South Central Education Cooperative's "We're All Special" Conference, presenting two co-teaching mini sessions. In addition to the professional development we offer, the project has contracted with the national co-teaching expert and researcher, Dr. Lisa Dieker, to provide a one day co-teaching session on September 26, 2018. The session will be open to all interested educators as well as ADE staff and university preservice instructors.

Tier 3 services are provided in the form of a yearlong, blended professional development package, Boundless Learning Co-Teaching (BLC). This package is provided in partnership with Johns Hopkins University's Center for Technology in Education (JHU CTE) and includes a traditional face-to-face Kick Off session, online modules, webinars, onsite coaching, and implementation evaluation for administrators, co-teachers, and instructional facilitators who agree to serve as BLC facilitators. We finished the 2017-18 school year with sixteen schools in nine school districts. Participating schools included: Cooper Elementary, (Bentonville District), Crossett High, Crossett Middle (Crossett District), Jacksonville North Pulaski County Middle (Jacksonville North Pulaski County), Hall High (Little Rock School District), Magnolia High, Magnolia Junior High, and East Side Elementary (Magnolia District), Mountain Home Junior High, Mountain Home High, and Pinkston Middle (Mountain Home District), Sonora Middle and Springdale High (Springdale District), Trumann Middle and Trumann High (Trumann District), and Vilonia Freshman Academy (Vilonia District). Data continues to show the positive effect that co-teaching has on students with and without disabilities in co-taught classrooms. Grades were compiled from our sixteen schools for all co-taught students. The 2017-18 cohort included 37 co-taught classrooms with 745 students with and without disabilities. 98% of students with disabilities received passing grades and 73% of students with disabilities received a "C" or higher. Likewise, 93% of students without disabilities received passing grades and 73% of students without disabilities received a "C" or higher.

The Arkansas Co-Teaching Project leadership staff accepted an invitation from Johns Hopkins University's Center for Technology in Education to visit Baltimore in May 2018 and

collaborated with the team on the 2018-19 Boundless Learning Co-Teaching Professional Development. In addition, plans are in place to partner with JHU CTE to offer a Boundless Learning Facilitator's Micro-Credential. Micro-credentials create an opportunity for educators to "learn by doing". Educators can earn micro-credentials by demonstrating competency of a skill or skill set in their classroom. While working on their selected task, the educator is coached along the pathway with effective and timely feedback. Their work is reviewed by a group of trained educators who determine if competency has been reached. The earned micro-credential follows the educator's career path, assisting in appropriate human capital decisions and in some instances the micro-credential can also lead to graduate credit.

This micro-credential will be a first for our project and will be a pilot project for the state.

Registration is now underway for the 2018-19 Boundless Learning Co-Teaching professional development packages. We have another great cohort of co-teachers, instructional facilitators, and administrators who will attend one of four Kick-Off sessions. They are scheduled for September 17-20 at the Bentonville School District, Arkansas River Education Cooperative, and Arch Ford Education Cooperative. We are looking forward to another productive year for our students and educators.

CAYSI (Children and Youth with Sensory Impairment)
Quarterly Report to the Special Education Advisory Council
July 16, 2018

- CAYSI is preparing to apply for the next grant cycle through the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) under the Technical Assistance and Dissemination section. Along with providing technical assistance for families and providers, initiatives proposed are early identification, referral, and child count; interveners and quality personnel; assessment; planning and instruction; and transition.
- CAYSI parents have established their own group with the goal of children and families having a larger voice for Arkansas. They are called Arkansas Empowering Families with Deafblindness (AEFD) and have applied to be an affiliate of the National Families of Deafblindness (NFADB) to build the network of deafblindness and influence change.
- CAYSI's Family Consultant collaborated with the Vermont Deafblind program in providing a family conference in Vermont. At this conference, the deafblind program introduced families to a new program that will begin in Arkansas in the near future. Charting the Life Course was developed by Family 2 Family at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. This program will assist families in determining their definition of "a good life" for their child and themselves and the steps necessary to reach their vision.
- CAYSI Education Consultant and Easter Seals Outreach will provide four professional development trainings throughout the state for the next school year.
- CAYSI wrapped up the year-long intensive technical assistance training in northwest Arkansas and will continue year two with mentoring support as a follow-up.
- CAYSI, along with eight other deafblind projects from southeast states completed the annual Transition Institute, hosted by the Tennessee Deafblind Project. Thirteen students

from the southeast cohort and their families attended along with deafblind mentors, interpreters, interveners, volunteers, and deafblind staff.

Advisory Council for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities August 2018 Report

Personnel Development Activities

Paraprofessional Supports and Training

Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, Districts and agencies will be using six new Special Education Training Modules available through ArkansasIDEAS for paraprofessional training. The 6 one-hour Modules were developed by a committee of Arkansas school district and agency special education personnel in collaboration with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Unit (ADE-SEU). These modules focus on the foundations of special education and student behavior. They are available to all Arkansas licensed teachers and administrators, and school age paraprofessionals. A committee of statewide stakeholders continues the process of updating and revising the Special Health Care Needs Training Module.

Recruitment and Retention

The ADE-SEU will complete all direct funding support (tuition reimbursement) to graduate level students seeking certification as Speech Language Pathologists at the end of this semester. Ten (10) prior participants have completed their university programs, achieved licensure as SLPs, and are fulfilling the terms of their commitment as employees of Arkansas public schools or education service cooperatives. The ADE-SEU now collaborates with educational service cooperatives on behalf to school districts through recruitment and retention activities designed to attract and keep qualified special education personnel, which can include Speech Language Pathologists.

The ADE-SEU is currently working with two out-of-state IHEs to recruit and support licensed Arkansas teachers seeking to add Visual or Hearing Specialist certifications.

SEU Personnel Development Staff continue to actively partner with the ADE's Teacher Recruitment and Retention program by attending and supporting all "Become an Arkansas Teacher" events and working with the Educator Preparation and Licensure Units to attract and support persons interested in becoming special education teachers. ADE-SEU staff participated in the Bradley County Job Fair on April 26th, 2018. SEU staff also directly assist teachers and others interested in entering the field of Special Education by providing information via phone and email.

Staff at ADE-SEU work closely with personnel at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) to share information about the Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP), State Teacher Education Program (STEP), and loan forgiveness programs. These programs encourage new personnel to enter the field and current educators to acquire special education licensure.

Educational Interpreters

The ADE-SEU will continue to sponsor EIPA assessment opportunities for interpreters working in educational settings. The ADE-SEU sponsored a free 2-day workshop in June 2018 to help Educational Interpreters increase their skills and assist them in obtaining their license and the credentials required for working in public schools. The ADE-SEU collaborates with the Arkansas School for the Deaf and the Arkansas Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (ARID) to support Educational Interpreters and schools.